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The Spectator

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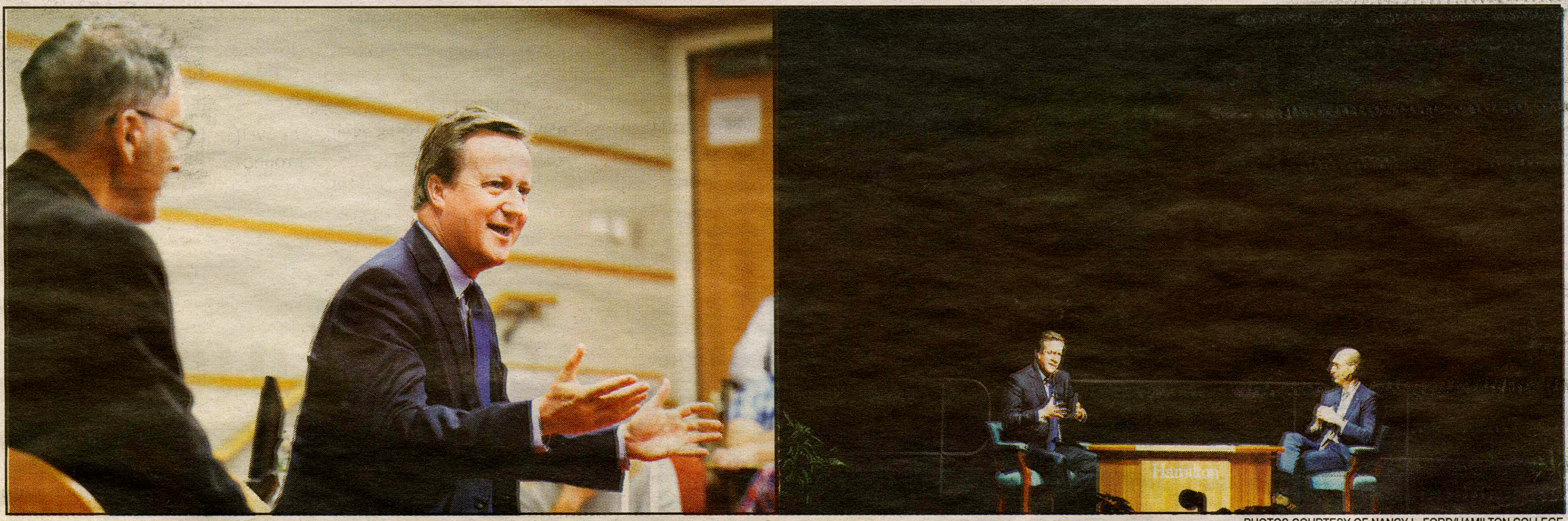
October 18, 2018

Volume LIX
Number VII

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

College hosts former UK Prime Minister David Cameron as Great Names speaker



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NANCY L. FORD/HAMILTON COLLEGE

(left) Cameron speaks to students in the Red Pit, (right) Cameron and President David Wippman in the Margaret Scott Bundy Field House

by Will Kaback '20
Editor-in-Chief

On Oct. 15, The Right Honourable David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 2010 to 2016, visited Hamilton as the 2018 Sacerdote Great Names speaker. The day culminated in a question-and-answer session with College President David Wippman in the Margaret Scott Bundy Field House at 7:30 PM. Cameron joined Margaret Thatcher as the second former British Prime Minister to speak on campus.

Cameron's first official event on campus came at 4 PM, when he visited Professor Alan Cafruny's "Europe in World Affairs" and Professor Kira Jumet's "Introduction to International Relations" classes in the Red Pit for an hour-long question-and-answer session with students.

Sam Gause '21 a student in Professor Cafruny's "Europe in World Affairs" class, said he found Cameron to be an "eloquent and likable individual." Gause said he asked the former Prime Minister "whether he thought the European Union (EU) should intervene in Hungary and Poland's slide to authoritarian governments, given the lack of press freedom and judicial independence, and what form an intervention could come in." Gause added that Cameron's visit helped him to further connect with his course material, saying, "His experience [as Prime Minister] proved invaluable, as many questions dealing specifically with regional issues were his bread and butter. I gained deeper insight into several issues."

Nadav Konforty '20, Student Assembly President and another member of Professor Cafruny's class, said he was struck by how "well spoken" Cameron was, saying, "Even though I disagree with most of what he believes he says it all in such a compelling way. Listening to him was as much a lesson in political oratory as it was in government and policy."

Konforty, who is writing his term paper for the class on the UK's vote to leave the EU at the end of Cameron's time in office (colloquially called "Brexit"), added that speaking to a former leader with a direct, significant connection to the issue was "a very special opportunity." Still Konforty said he wished that Cameron would have "'turn[ed] off' the politician part of himself and just to talk[ed] to students", calling some of his answers to student questions "obfuscative."

Cafruny said that other questions asked by students included: "The ethics of British arms sales to Saudi Arabia, the impact of austerity on society and politics, British military intervention in Libya, the growth of right-wing populism in Europe, the U.K.'s relations with former colonies, and U.K.-Russia relations." He added that "both classes were well prepared for the session."

The main event, though, was Cameron's talk with President Wippman in front of an engaged Fieldhouse audience. Prior to his entrance, the building lights dimmed and music faded in as two large screens on either side of the stage played a short video chronicling Cameron's rise to the top of Britain's Conservative Party, his election as Prime Minister, and a variety of major world events he presided over during his tenure, including his role in addressing the UK's economic downturn upon taking office, the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, and the 2016 UK referendum vote to leave the EU, the outcome of which led to his stepping down as Prime Minister.

Cameron and Wippman took the stage to the tune of Florence + The Machine's "Shake It Out" and started off on a humorous note, with Wippman acknowledging the rainy weather and "enthusiastic but slightly damp audience." Cameron, for his part, quipped, "I've seen the musical, now I get to visit the college."

Wippman steered the conversation towards more serious policy issues, asking Cameron about his initiatives to "modernize" the Conservative Party as Prime Minister. Cameron spoke generally about the importance of focusing on the efficient delivery of healthcare, education, and welfare services, as well as championing traditionally-progressive issues like same-sex marriage and improving the representation of women and minorities in the party.

One of the most intriguing moments of the night came when Wippman broached the question of Brexit. Although the vote led to his resignation, Cameron said he did not think it was a mistake to call it, citing growing frustrations among the population regarding the widespread use of the Euro as the main currency of the EU, immigration concerns, and the perception that the UK was contributing more than its fair share to the EU's political activities. Calling Britain a "reluctant tenant", he said that although he campaigned in favor of staying in the EU, he respected the outcome of the vote — 52-48 in favor of leaving.

Cameron, when prompted, also gave an assessment of President Donald Trump, saying that despite disagreeing with him on all fundamental issues, he viewed Trump's election as a symptom of broader issues involving populism and globalization. He stressed the need for US leadership in addressing issues like global terrorism in a "rational" way.

A similar vein of conversation centered around the recently-published *The Jungle Grows Back: America and Our Imperiled World*, written by Robert Kagan P'20. In the book, Kagan asserts that liberal democratic international order is at risk, pointing to "the jungle" of dangerous world actors who reappear throughout history in the absence of leadership on the part of world powers like the United States. In response to this the, Cameron once again pointed to economic and cultural tensions derived from an increasingly globalized world. Though he remained optimistic that democratic order would prevail, he called on governments to direct their attention to the causes and potential effects of populist movements that may be growing among their populations.

Wippman concluded the event with a "lightning round" of light-hearted questions oriented towards the students in attendance. He asked about notable courses Cameron took while a student at Oxford, his interests in college, and his relationship with Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms, with whom he met privately on a weekly basis while in office, a long-standing tradition.

Cameron is the latest in a long line of previous speakers brought to campus by The Sacerdote Series, named in recognition of a significant gift from the family of Alex Sacerdote, a 1994 Hamilton graduate.

Professor donates large collection of Soviet-era memorabilia to College

by Isabel Kierstead '21
Staff Writer

Frank Sciacca, Associate Professor of Russian Studies at Hamilton College, recently donated around 300 items of Soviet-era propaganda to the College from his personal collection. After traveling to the Soviet Union in 1970 during his collegiate years, and again returning in 1976 as a graduate student at Moscow State University, Sciacca began collecting memorabilia. After almost 20 trips to the Soviet Union, his collection grew to include hundreds of posters, along with toys, banners, pins, and other small tokens. With the posters costing only a few cents at the time of his visits, he continued to collect them, noting their value as a visual history of Soviet advertisements. The majority are from the 1980s, during former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's "glasnost" period, when artwork peaked in terms of visual appeal and persuasion. The collection also visualizes the Cold War period influenced by the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev. Many of the pieces boast of Soviet scientific and economic achievements, in addition to showing commemorations of Marx, Engels, and Lenin. Much of Sciacca's collection is also comprised of znachki souvenir pins, which show political symbols, cities, and celebrated events. Parts of his collection have been on display at the Emerson Gallery in 1995. He continued to travel to Russia throughout his tenure at Hamilton, taking bi-annual trips with Associate Professor of Russian Studies John Bartle and several students.

Konstantin Tokarr '19 became involved with Sciacca's collection as Head Teaching Assistant of the Russian Studies Department and helped with translating the collection. A native Russian speaker whose parents grew up in the Soviet Union, he was able to translate much of the collection. His father, a translator, helped as well.

"I involved [my parents] in the project to assist with terms that I was not familiar with such as nuanced political terminology and historical military vocabulary," said Tokarr. His involvement with the collection also allowed him to learn more about his parents' lives, as they openly discussed their experiences during the translation process.

Sciacca's collection has allowed for the public, along with those who have experienced Soviet-era Russia to learn more about the history through highly creative and captivating posters.

"Whether you can read Russian or not, the posters are to be appreciated for their craftsmanship and ingenuity," said Tokarr. "The posters answer questions such as, 'What social issues were corrupting the nation?', 'What was the state of international relations at the time?', and 'How is the nation changing in terms of political and economic policy?'"

By making such a complete collection more available, Sciacca hopes to help engage the Hamilton community with Russia and its history. The collection will provide a new way for community members to understand and interact with the Soviet Union's past.

Hamilton professor and students attend U.N. Climate Conference

by Jonina Mignon '21
Staff Writer

At the end of September, leaders of nations from all around the world convened in New York City for a two-week long conference organized by the UN. The purpose of these negotiations was to establish government measures to protect the high seas and preserve its biodiversity before irreparable damage is done.

Four members of the Hamilton community were able to observe portions of the negotiations: Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Aaron Strong, Nick Jickling '19, Amarilys Milian '20, and Jack Wright '19.

In describing the actual process of negotiating these agreements, Professor Strong explained, "The UN makes decisions on the basis of consensus. They try to have every country get on board with the text of the treaty without anyone disagreeing. This often leads to a least common denominator form of compromise, and that was definitely the case at this meeting. In addition, the axes of disagreement have already long been established between conservation-oriented and NGO-aligned small island Pacific states and major fishing countries like Russia, Iceland, China and others and all of those disagreements were on display at the meeting. What impressed me was that the dominant and more numerous voices in the room were the conservation-minded ones. That doesn't always happen."

Wright was surprised by some of the events at the negotiations, saying, "One thing that was really exciting about this opportunity was that we knew what we were getting into at the start, but weren't sure if the chair of the convention would decide to extend the negotiations into the weekend (we arrived on Thursday night to see the Friday and possibly Saturday debates). They actually came to a conclusion on Friday and didn't continue negotiations on Saturday. When we broke for lunch on Friday, we had no idea what the outcome would be. It was pretty amazing to think that in that one hour's time, the chair of the conference was meeting with the countries that were pushing back (Russia, USA, China, Japan, Iceland) to find some sort of compromise that would influence how we protect the high seas for years to come."

Both Strong and Wright stressed the importance and value of this experience. When asked about how it felt to be physically present for such a landmark moment in international environmental policy, Strong said, "For my own scholarship in this arena, which focuses on how climate science informs international ocean governance, being in the room is essential to describing the fullness of the governance process."

"Reports, minutes, and web streams are all useful, but nothing beats being in the room. They show the process for what it is: a process of a few hundred human beings sitting in one room together discussing the future approach to managing nearly half of the planet that lies beyond national boundaries. The students now understand this process and can share it with others (as they did recently at a debriefing session). None of that learning happens without being in the room."

Wright agreed, adding that seeing the negotiations occur live not only enhanced his academic experience as an environmental studies and public policy double major, but also framed his classes in a real-world perspective.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WBUR

The General Assembly in New York City, where Hamilton students attended negotiations at the United Nations Climate Conference

"It was really cool to see some of the topics from class come alive at the convention. I'm taking an environmental justice course right now and I think that made me very aware of equity and the roles of the countries represented at the convention. For example, many of the Pacific Island nations relied on NGO or UN funding to send their delegates to this convention. It's pretty shocking when you think of the millions of people that are not involved in these global decisions simply because their country can't afford to send delegates. It definitely makes some of my courses seem more real and less academic."

While the issue being addressed is very serious, Wright also noted that the jokes exchanged among the delegates added to the experience, and certainly would have been missed in the transcript. "One thing that surprised me was the mix of very formal convention proceedings and super informal jokes from participants. There seemed to be a competition between the countries to see who could make the best ocean/sea/boat-related pun, which certainly made it more interesting. The conference chair was also sharing stories about NCIS and making jokes about 'hammer time' which took me a bit surprise! I guess bureaucrats have a sense of humor too."

The consensus among the four was that attending the UN negotiations was a valuable learning experience, and one that they are very hopeful to return to in the future. Said Strong: "In addition to the students who just went this fall and want to go back, I already know of a few more students who are interested in attending those future sessions. For the students who attended this fall's session, they really can't wait to see what happens this coming March. The biggest thing I would change in the future is to go for a longer period of time! We were only there for two days, and we were there right when the session was wrapping up. That was cool because we had a real sense of the debate at the end, but I think we all agreed that next time it's worth going for much longer!"

Recent alumna named one of six finalists for leading undergraduate physics award

by Caroline Nash '22
Contributing Writer

A recent graduate of Hamilton College, Elise LePage '18, was named a finalist for the 2018 LeRoy Apker Award. The award is honors undergraduate physics achievement conferred through the American Physical Society and highlights the potential of physics student for a successful career in the field.

LePage was one of six finalists who presented their theses in August to the selection committee in Washington, D.C. As a finalist, LePage received an honorarium of $2,000, and the College's Physics Department also received an award of $1,000 to help fund undergraduate student research in physics.

LePage submitted the thesis she wrote for the Physics Department's senior program, in which students work closely with professors on research projects over the course of their senior year, focusing on one of the projects in that professor's portfolio of research.

LePage wrote her thesis, titled "On the Quantization of Plane Gravitational Waves in Loop Quantum Gravity", and collaborated with Professor Seth Major, chair of the Physics Department.

In her thesis, LePage explained that all forces in physics, other than gravity, have a quantum description. The goal for her project was to find the quantization of gravity. The lack of a quantum description of gravity "is a problem because there are gravitational effects that can't be explained by general relativity [...] Loop quantum gravity is one approach to creating a quantum theory of gravity." LePage explained for her thesis that she "investigated what a quantum description of gravitational waves looks like in loop quantum gravity."

Professor Major explained that while he and LePage did not complete the quantization of gravity, they "made significant progress over what had been done before on the model."

Each year, as College physics professors look at senior projects in the department, they consider whether there is any student research that is deserving of a nomination for the LeRoy Apker Award. Once nominated, the student must present the work of their thesis, complete a write-up of their thesis, and submit recommendations from professors. LePage is the first student to be nominated by the department for the award in several years.

LePage originally intended to study mathematics at Hamilton, but she grew increasingly frustrated with the level of abstraction in pure math. She only became interested in physics the spring of her sophomore year, when she talked with students in the department. LePage explained her interest in that, unlike math, "physics provides a connection to reality."

LePage began working on her thesis in the summer before her senior year and continued through the fall of that year. Even after her thesis was officially completed, LePage continued to research her topic through the spring of her senior year and the summer after graduation. "I strongly suspect that this work will be part of a paper that we'll publish at some point, so she will certainly be part of that project when that happens," said Major.

LePage is currently enrolled in Perimeter Scholars International, a one-year master's-level course in theoretical physics at the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, Canada. Once she completes that program, she will attend the University of California at Berkeley, where she will work towards her doctorate in physics.

LePage commented, "I'm hoping to continue working on this topic, but I'm still unsure of what area I'll ultimately decide to focus on for my PhD."

CORRECTION

In the Oct. 4 issue of *The Spectator,* an article titled "Hamilton College students encounter difficulty voting in Oneida County during primary elections" was accompanied by a photograph of the Kirkland Town Library in downtown Clinton, which was identified as the local polling location for the November 6, 2018 midterm election. The correct polling location is the Town of Kirkland Municipal Building, 3699 State Route 12B, Clinton. *The Spectator* apologizes for any confusion caused by this error.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency, *The Spectator* publishes a selection of the previous week's incidents each Thursday. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* use discretion regarding what is published.

Thursday October 11
10:52 A.M. Complaint - Peters Lane
11:25 A.M Concern for Welfare - Root Residence Hall

Friday, October 12
2:38 P.M. Suspicious Activity - North Campus
5:42 P.M. Assist - Bristol Campus Center
7:51 P.M. Medical Emergency - Rogers Estate
7:54 P.M. Assist - Bristol Campus Center
9:36 P.M. Assist - Bristol Campus Center
9:38 P.M. Trouble Alarm - Anderson-Connell Alumni Center
10:42 P.M. Assist - Bristol Campus Center

Saturday, October 13
2:46 P.M. Area Check - Sadove Student Center
5:10 P.M. Assist - Beinecke Village
5:51 P.M. Assist - Bristol Campus Center
6:45 P.M. Assist - Assist - Bristol Campus Center
8:11 P.M. Area Check - College Hill Road
8:20 P.M. Complaint - On Campus
9:01 P.M. Assist - Wertimer House

Sunday, October 14
1:28 A.M. Area Check - South Campus
2:18 A.M. Area Check - North Campus
4:18 A.M. Area Check - South Campus
9:49 A.M. Security Alarm - Wellin Museum of Art
10:55 A.M. Complaint - Wertimer House
12:55 P.M. Complaint - Eels House
5:22 P.M. Assist - Bristol Campus Center

Monday, October 15
12:31 A.M. Complaint - Kirkland Residence Hall
5:59 A.M. Trouble Alarm - Sage Ice Rink
8:31 A.M. Tow Vehicle - Parking Lots: Dunham
12:53 A.M. Trouble Alarm - Eells House
10:22 P.M. Complaint - Kirkland Residence Hall
10:42 P.M. TipNow - North Residence Hall

Tuesday, October 16
10:45 A.M. Trouble Alarm - Bundy East Residence Hall

Wednesday, October 17
11:02 A.M. Odor of Marijuana - Carnegie Residence Hall

Letter to the Editor

Dear *Spectator* Editorial Board,

Many thanks for your coverage of the Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative's event on Saturday, October 6 featuring Native rap artist Daygots, and Haudenosaunee dancer Chris Thomas and his team of Native dancers. Duncan Freeman did a great job with the article, and we appreciate the Spectator's interest in — and highlighting of — SKI's mission to connect the College more closely with its founding narrative in the friendship between Samuel Kirkland and the Oneida leader Shenandoah, out of which was born an attempt to create an educational institution which would be of benefit to American Indians.

Unfortunately the headline given to the article "Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative and Oneida Nation to host community gathering on campus" offers readers the suggestion that the event was co-hosted by the two parties. In reality, SKI hosted the event and invited members of the Oneida Nation to attend, which I am happy to say, many did.

Thank you for the opportunity to correct any possible misperceptions about the nature of the October 6 event.

Skʌ:nʌ́: sanuhtunyúhek (Have peace of mind…)

Jeff McArn, Advisor

Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative

The Spectator would like to express its condolences to the family and friends of Brian Hough, who was one of the bystanders killed in the recent tragic motor vehicle accident in Schoharie, NY.

Hough was a former assistant visiting professor of geosciences who taught at the College in 2014 and 2015. At the time of his death, Hough was a professor at SUNY Oswego.

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

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October 18, 2018

Body image in the college environment

by Carolyn Gevinski '22
Staff Writer

Before I came to Hamilton College, I attended a high school where students had little respect for each other. Belittling others and minimizing their self confidence prevailed, and the importance of a healthy body image was readily discarded. From living in this environment for so long, I have gained unusually high levels of paranoia that others often speak about how I look behind my back.

I can say with confidence that before coming to college, my self esteem and body image were significantly lower than average.

In the two months that I've been at Hamilton College, I've realized that the predominant attitude held at my high school is not universal. People do not call each other derogatory terms. People do not intentionally diminish their peers' self-esteem. Obviously, there are a few exceptions, but I have personally noticed that the students at Hamilton College are far more supportive and respectful than those I had previously been surrounded by.

After spending only two months in a place with a more considerate climate, I've noticed a great rise in my own individual body confidence. As a college athlete, I find that I have time allotted specifically to work out, and I don't have to force myself to go to the gym. I can also eat more food with the knowledge that I will burn it off later. However, this statement does not hold true for all college freshmen.

Within a matter of days, we are ripped from the comforting spheres of familiarity, and thrown into a foreign setting. We are forced to battle new stresses, and learn how to balance school work with social life. We are confronted with a hook-up culture that may be very different from what we experienced in high school. For some, these changes are fluid, but for others, self-esteem and individual body image can take a hit.

Increased school work, a more critical grading system and social temptations can result in frequent stress eating. Late night snacks while studying for an exam, or trips at 11:30 P.M. to Commons for a bowl of Cocoa Puffs are two of my own stress-reducing habits. I am also sure that I'm not the only one who has woken up on a Saturday morning regretting last night's trip to Diner B.

The hook-up culture is also a considerable adjustment. For many first-years, the opportunity for hooking up or being in a relationship had rarely arisen in the past. These new experiences can stimulate body-oriented insecurities that may not have previously existed.

There is also a significant difference in the way these unfamiliar occurrences can take effect on students of different genders. Society tends to emphasize body positivity as an issue that is primarily female-oriented. While it is true that body-oriented insecurities are prevalent specifically among women, it is important to acknowledge that men also suffer from similar anxieties.

That brings us to the ultimate question: how exactly do we define "body image?" According to the National Eating Disorders Association, body image is how you see yourself when you look in the mirror or when you picture yourself in your mind. This mental image can be altered by differences in both individual past experiences and cultural expectations. For example, the "ideal" female body in China is very different from that in the United States.

Individual past experiences may also affect how a person views themselves. For example, a person who has suffered domestic or relationship abuse may question their worth, or believe that if they looked a certain way, their past experience would not have occured.

Students at Hamilton College come from 47 states and 45 countries around the world. We practice different religions, belong to diverse ethnicities, have unique sexual identities, and speak varying tongues. We all enter college with different opinions of ourselves, and depending on a variety of circumstances, these opinions may change for better or for worse.

Above all, it is important to note that, as a community, we should strive to remember these differences in identity when we acknowledge each other.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Just in time, I mean. An exceedingly hot Spectator Bach to Bach that lasted one week longer than normal because of fall break. How convenient! Now you know exactly where to find us. No more mistakes and no more excuses.	Distractions. Nothing like your housemates watching Apocalypse Now on full volume in the common room to really staunch the creative juices. Do you remember that scene where they're in the helicopters, and the bald, irresponsible C.O. plays Wagner while they destroy a village? Well?	I found the half-consumed bottle of Poland Spring water from which the Right Honorable David Cameron drank during his spectacle of a Red Pit Q&A. But now that I have the real thing, I guess it doesn't matter that I skipped his speech on purpose.

by Zach Deming '20 and Gwyn Sise '19

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Fall Break: the work-free restful time it should be (but isn't)

by Elizabeth Foot '20
Staff Writer

There are always a few weeks during the academic year when stress levels skyrocket. An obvious time is reading periods and exam weeks. However, the #midtermszn mindset is real. For Hamilton, midterms hit around Fall Break. Students are either slammed in the three days leading up to break or in the week following. I was in the former scenario this year, with three, 90-minute or longer exams within 36 hours. Was I stressed? Yes. Would I have preferred any of my exams to have been moved back to after break or even extended to the Saturday of break? Absolutely not. I did not envy any of my friends who left for break and a fun weekend knowing the shoe was still waiting to drop the upcoming week.

I owe my professors a quick thanks for realizing Fall Break is meant to be exactly that — a break. A break from work is definitely needed at this point in the year, as the stretch from classes starting in mid-August to Fall Break is the longest time without a break during the academic year. Classes are picking up, grades are accumulating, stress is mounting, and the summer (along with warmth and sunlight) is definitely gone. All this, and when the break that students and faculty look forward to is suddenly crossed out and replaced by scrawling To-Do lists with assignments to turn in or exams to study for, it loses its purpose entirely.

Any professor who assigns substantial work over break needs to reevaluate doing so. By substantial, I mean any type of work that requires more than two hours of students' time. For example, a professor scheduling a test for the Monday after break, or assigning a major component of a bigger project to be due the Saturday of break. If the assignment is some vocabulary practice for a language class or a short reading and response, those assignments shouldn't be met with pitchforks and torches. But the big assignments, the ones that induce stress in even the most relaxed students, shouldn't be assigned over this so-called "break."

Fall Break is needed. Seasonal affective depression (SAD) is real, and for those who suffer, I can only imagine a time like Fall Break is one of the last golden times before the cold, snow, and dreariness of upstate New York fully hits. SAD aside, anyone who thinks the second part of the semester is less stressful than the first should tell me what classes they're taking so I can join, although it's likely they're lying.

Fall Break should not be a time when professors can assign substantial work or schedule exams less than 48 hours after returning to campus. A real break would allow students to relax and regroup before the pre-Thanksgiving push. One reason professors might assign work is they assume other professors are nicer, or their own class is more intense, and thus assign work feeling that it is reasonable. If all professors think this, though, students suddenly have four courses pilling on readings, exams, and research work to be completed during break. By making a "no-work assigned, no exam/paper due within 48 hour after break" rule, students' mental health could have a brief hiatus from unnecessary stress.

Were things run more like I've proposed, professors could also have a real break. I really see no losing side of the College implementing a policy like this. The only legitimate argument I feel the administration could have would be that it lowers Hamilton's intellectual standards. However, I wholly disagree. Some students think they are meant to be going 100 percent, 24/7, but many students are not and burn out. If students are beginning to burn out this early in the semester, grades will likely drop. At this point in the semester, the grades from here on out often count for more, which means doing poorly is going to negatively affect a student's GPA.

If GPAs dip across the board, Hamilton's academic standing is not going to look so good for any potential employers of these students. And while I admit this could be construed as hyperbole, the sentiment is real. No matter how engaged students are with a subject, if they are feeling burned out, their brain will be unable to process or engage as much as they want to or as much as the professors require. So again, I see no downside of giving Fall Break a "no substantial work, no exam/paper due 48 hrs after break" policy.

The effects of global warming are imminent

by Cliff Musial '21
Opinion Contributor

Less than a month after Hurricane Florence struck the Carolina coasts on Sept. 14, 2018, an even stronger Hurricane Michael hit western Florida. Though the National Hurricane Center detected them early and allowed time to prepare, these storms have still devastated regions of the southeastern United States in terms of economic factors and loss of life, causing a combined $21 billion in damage and over 60 fatalities as of Oct. 15, 2018. The sheer strength and proximity of these hurricanes have led those affected, scientists, and concerned citizens alike to raise the question: is this natural?

From what scientists have determined, the best answer is probably not. Hurricanes are very difficult to predict and study, and the number of hurricanes per year is highly variable. This makes it nearly impossible to find any long-term trends in the frequency of hurricanes within the time frame it has been studied (since the 1970s). However, among the storms that have been studied, the frequency of category 4 or 5 hurricanes has doubled since the 1970s. Category 4 and 5 hurricanes have wind speeds above 130 miles per hour, and twice as many hurricanes in recent years have reached these wind speeds, according to a 2005 study. This increase in strength, combined with 2012 data from tide surges indicating an upward trend in intensity, suggests that rising temperatures and climate change have made tropical storms and hurricanes more intense, with higher wind speeds and rainfall. The devastation that intense hurricanes cause is unfolding before our eyes, and further increases in intensity as our climate changes. This something, as a nation and a planet, we should do everything in our power to prevent.

The foreboding warning that these hurricanes present us with comes at a time rife with foreboding warnings; on October 8, 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a special report predicting that we, as a planet, have twelve years to take significant action to limit climate change before irreversible damage will occur. They are not saying that this damage will occur in twelve years; they are saying if the carbon levels in the atmosphere and global average temperatures continue to increase at their current rate for over twelve years, there will be irreversible, long-term damage to the environment in the future.

At the rate predicted (based on the current rate and recent increase in rate), the global average temperature will increase 1.5°C by 2030. This change may seem small, but as an average temperature change, this is monumental. Floods and droughts will be more extreme and frequent, hurricanes and tropical storms will be more intense, and most impactfully, large parts of the polar ice caps will melt, creating rising sea levels and possibly releasing methane from the sea ice as it melts, exponentially adding to the increase in temperature in what is hypothetically dubbed an "Arctic death spiral." If this happens, according to the IPCC report, we can expect to see a 3-4°C increase in temperature by the end of the century, which compared to a 1.5°C increase, would be truly devastating to the planet. Taking action to prevent climate change is no longer just to be proactive, safe, or preferable. It is absolutely necessary for the future of our planet.

Taking action is, of course, far more complicated and difficult than it sounds. According to a Pew Research Center study in 2016, only 48 percent of Americans acknowledged that global warming is due to human activity, with 31 percent claiming it is due to natural causes and 20 percent going so far as to claim there is no evidence at all of warming. On what basis they make this claim is a mystery, but the point stands: the majority of this sample of Americans do not think humans have anything to do with climate change, or that the climate is not changing at all.

It seems now, amid an unprecedented amount of evidence to show that the carbon levels in the atmosphere are higher than they've been in 800,000 years and that the global temperature is rising at an unprecedented rate, that many Americans continue to deny climate change because of political consequences. It is no coincidence that conservative Republicans are "much less inclined to anticipate negative effects from climate change or to judge proposed solutions as making much difference in mitigating any effects," according to the 2016 Pew study by Cary Funk and Brian Kennedy. The most popular proposed solutions to climate change are restrictions on power plant emissions, international agreements to limit emissions, tougher fuel efficiency standards for cars, corporate tax incentives, and individuals reducing their carbon footprint.

Three of these solutions, and a majority of others, fundamentally contradict conservative ideology, involving heavy regulation on private companies and the economy, drastic government-driven action, and a loss of jobs in the coal industry, an industry in which the majority of workers and executives are Republican voters. Now that we are in a position in which we have no choice but to take action to prevent further change in the climate, we must seek solutions that are more aligned with conservative and liberal ideology, as difficult as it may seem. These would certainly not the easiest nor most effective solutions, but if such solutions become the most popular, I predict quite a few Americans would suddenly happen to find the plethora of evidence showing that the climate is changing due to human activity much more compelling.

Nothing to joke about: the "dark side" of caffeine addiction for college students

by Randy Tristant '22
Opinion Contributor

I can't say that my addiction to caffeine started in college, nor did it start in high school. Rewinding to middle school reminds me of sleepless nights and stacks of coffee-stained paper. As a coffee lover, as well as an avid consumer and maker of it, I began indulging at a very young age. Searching for the best cup of coffee available, I perused local and international cafes, and aimed to both become more knowledgeable about coffee and find what I enjoyed most.

However, I never imagined that a few sips of a latte would snowball into surviving off of 10 cups of black coffee a day at the age of 19, and a few trips to the hospital due to having pierced a hole in my stomach from drinking so much of the beverage that I believed could bring me eternal bliss and energy. After being told that I could no longer drink coffee on a daily basis since I had made my own stomach bleed, instead of doing the rational thing, I opted for alternatives rather than renunciation. My bedroom began to look more like a battlefield than a living space, and became scattered with empty bottles of diet soda and energy drinks.

As they piled on, so did the symptoms of what I failed to realize was an addiction. I became restless, irritable, disoriented, and increasingly anxious. Nothing seemed to calm me down; my hands constantly trembled — which they still do — and my muscles seemed to undergo major quakes everyday. As I was delving deeper into this addiction, I recognized similar patterns of behavior amongst my peers. They also showed up to class with caffeine-infused drinks and stayed up all night, accompanied by the pressure to succeed and, of course, a delicious cup of coffee. And as the semester progresses, I see more joining in. The coffee supply at Commons runs dry early on in the day and is constantly being refilled. Vending machines are looking emptier by the day, and caffeine pills are popped like candy. A 2017 study which surveyed five U.S. colleges found that caffeine was consumed by 92 percent of students in these colleges.

Caffeine consumption has seen a rapid increase in the past two decades, especially amongst college students. The pressure of deadlines, the piles of work, and the lack of time in what doesn't seem like twenty four hours are all contributing to this addiction. In an effort to make the most of our time, college students resort to caffeine, relying on adenosine for energy and alertness and dopamine for pleasure. You would think that caffeine, being one of the most chemically addictive components in beverages, would be accompanied by a warning label. Instead, caffeine levels are treated as a competition among coffee drinkers, and consuming ridiculous amounts of caffeine is slowly becoming the norm.

When it comes to caffeine, addiction is joked about, and students' heavy reliance on it is easily dismissed and overlooked.

Why is caffeine addiction not treated as a serious problem rather than a simple dependency when side effects of withdrawal can be just as severe as those of other "hard" drugs? Its reputation as mild and safe has destigmatized the severe long term health effects that are linked to its regular consumption, such as heartburn, stomach ulcers, depression, anxiety, insomnia, high blood pressure, and heart disease.

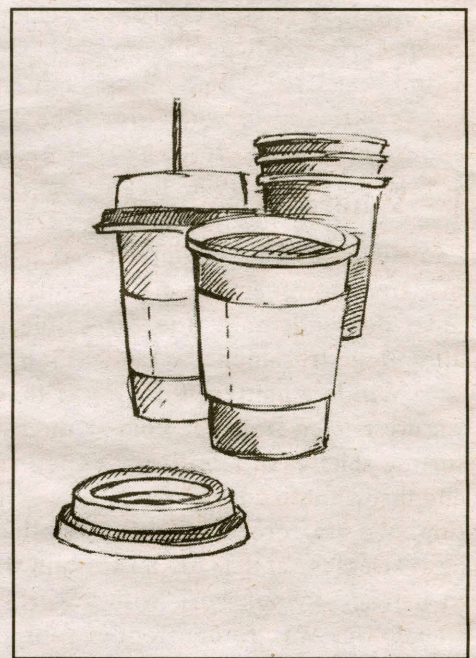


ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

Caffeine's safe zone extends up to 400 milligrams, which may seem like a boundary that students can avoid crossing. However, taking into account the fact that an average cup of coffee contains between 100 and 120 milligrams of caffeine, and energy drinks such as Monster contain 130 milligrams, it becomes clearer that approaching the 400 limit is plausible, if not commonplace. Regrettably, many can easily exceed this level, further fueling their addiction.

Caffeine has become the steroid that can help the athlete win the race. Since balancing workload, activities, and social life has become nearly impossible in this day and age, college students are using caffeine to attempt to keep up with it. But is it truly worth it to become so addicted to a substance, and to witness even more students becoming zombified by it? But how do you leave it, if you need it to be able to get through the day and, in the long-run, be successful in college? Dedicating less and less time to sleep and self-care, college students like myself delve into piles of work and responsibilities alongside our best friends: dopamine and adenosine.

Bachelorette & Bachelorette

Nicole Taylor '19

PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLE TAYLOR '19

Hometown: *Millville, P.A.*
Home on Campus: *Babbitt 23.*
Major: *Math and Government.*
Turn on? *Registered voters.*
Turn off? *People who walk barefoot in the bathroom.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Sken because I make you work for it.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Jaymes Young and Meghan Trainor.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Keeps going and going and going"- Energizer.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *Your hand looks heavy. Here, let me hold it for you.*
What's your type? *Tall, dark, and handsome.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Chocolate, red wine, and* The Office.
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Pub.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Sadove.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Dance Team.*
What's your patronus and why? *My pups.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Getting ice cream from McEwen after hours.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Dogs.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Squirrels.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *My RA...*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *The entire math department.*
What would your perfect date be? *Night monuments in DC.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *Dog bed.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Bean boots in September.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Pineapple pizza, people either really love or hate me.*
Lights on or lights off? *Lights on of course, how could I see otherwise? ;)*

Ash Lalwani '19

PHOTO COURTESY OF ASH LALWANI '19

Hometown: *Menlo Park, C.A.*
Home on Campus: *Babbitt 23.*
Major: *Biochemistry (art minor)*
Turn on? *Intelligence.*
Turn off? *Ignorance.*
If you were a dorm which would you be? *Kirkland loft or Moho.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick? *REM and Eminem.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *You're not you when you're hungry.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Rom Coms.*
What's your type? *Has a pulse.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Food, sleep, and my car.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *The pub on senior Thursdays.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *The men's lax team.*
What's your patronus and why? *Obama, for obvious reasons.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *The parking ones bc then I'd always have a dope spot.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Guinness.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Fireball.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Loooolll he knows who he is/ Am I allowed to put full sports teams on this list bc hot damn.*
What would your perfect date be? *Anything that involves food and getting to know each other.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *People that think it's okay to knock on your door for miscellaneous shiz past 11 P.M.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *French fries, because I'm a snack.*
Lights on or lights off? *Closet light on, the rest off.*
What's the last lie you told? *That I wanted to go out when I really just wanted to watch some Netflix and fall asleep.*
What was your first thought this morning? *Is it too late for breakfast? (it was solidly past noon).*
What's the meaning of life? *42.*

Political messages in classical Egyptian comedy

by Ghada Emish '19
Staff Writer

Active during the 1950-60s, Fateen Abdel-Wahab was the principle and most productive director of comedy film in classical Egyptian cinema. While the popular — and lucrative — formula for a comedy was that it depended more on an actor's ability to physically incarnate comedic movements, Abdel-Wahab developed comedy through situations. Yet, the traditional comedy film — the one most satisfactory of commercial gain — was favored by most film producers. The incongruity between economic success and innovation led Abdel-Wahab's career to alternate between commercial films and films that testified to a more unique creative vision.

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF PIPPA SCHWARZKOPF '16

Scenes from *Rumor of Love (1961)* and *Zizi's Family (1963).*

With actor Ismail Yassin as leading character, Abdel-Wahab made 27 films in which the comedy mainly depended on Yassin reacting and talking in a manner that articulates his distinctly large mouth. In such films, Yassin played a character that was mainly written to be played by him, to fit his performance. As expected, these films achieved great financial success. But this is not the only type of film he directed. Abdel-Wahab consciously chose to do other films in which he had more agency to let his vision come through: without commercial gain or a certain formula being pivotal to the production of his films.

Abdel-Wahab challenged himself by working with actors who were not known for playing comedy roles. One of the actors Abdel-Wahab casted in an unconventional role is Youssef Wahbi. Originally a theatre actor, Wahbi was known for his serious tone of voice and heavy theatrical presence. He played the main character in *Rumor of Love* (1961), in which he had a sarcastic laugh and attitude, which became iconic in Egyptian cinema. As director, Abdel-Wahab was to make Wahbi's performance fit the context of the film. Wahbi plays an elderly man who speaks in a slow rhythm and a poised tone, a quality he acquired from classical theatre, to show his character's wise air. In the film, Wahbi's character guides his nephew, a handsome and socially clumsy young man played by Omar Sharif, in how to approach his love interest. The comedy develops from the collision between Wahbi's grounded character and his nephew's naivete. Abdel-Wahab had a way of casting actors who would produce a certain chemistry that would integrate with the film's story.

In *Zizi's Family* (1963), Abdel-Wahab reflects on the national goal of building a better country in the wake of the Revolution of 1952 — which converted Egypt from a kingdom to a republic on grounds of political corruption. Zizi is a five-year-old girl who acts as a communicator among her family members. Her older siblings, a young woman and two young men, are distracted from spending time together or with their mother, their only living parent, by their individual goals. Zizi, whose wit and small size facilitate her circulation and act as a comedy element, helps bring the perspectives of her siblings and her mother closer. The film echoes the national spirit of social collectivity which inevitably starts with the family as the basic unit of society.

The film demonstrates the national values of that period of Egyptian history while demonstrating the consciousness of this endeavor. Actor Ahmed Ramzi plays a self-indulgent young man whose love interest condemns his negligent ways and encourages him to pursue his life seriously. Ramzi was known for playing this character in many previous films, but, unlike his previous roles, his character undergoes a change from the self-indulgent, individualized person to one whose goals align with those around him. He becomes useful to a society that wants to channel collective national efforts for a better future. The transformation in one of Egyptian cinema's most iconic characters echoes the national sentiment that the political corruption of the past would not influence the future.

Although his commercial films gave the impression that cinema is a less serious industry, Abdel-Wahab made a film that captures the serious mentality of the nation in the 1950s-1960s in a comedic tone. The film is one of few in classical Egyptian cinema to have thoroughly reflected the socio-political circumstances of the time they took place. He demonstrates that film can be used to advocate for certain political ideas that resonate with an audience and thus, should be viewed carefully.

Abdel-Wahab could not have consistently made less traditional comedy films because of the economic difficulty involved in producing films that deviates from producers' standards of a commercially successful film. But even the films that are stronger for their commercial appeal than artistic importance had a role in his stylistic development. Comedy that stems from the chemistry between actors has come to define Abdel-Wahab's directing style. The understanding of what makes each character unique, which was reinforced through the comedy he applied in his films with Yassin, culminates into a defining quality in the films he had more agency in crafting.

From Where I Sit: Unconventional traditions

Hamilton's International Perspectives Column

by Chiara Bondi '22
Contributing Writer

We've entered autumn, the season when people put pumpkins on their front lawns and get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends. It is also the time when people are already getting excited about Christmas and the New Year. Many of my friends have already begun talking about how they typically celebrate the holidays. In these conversations, I think about my traditions and I realize how different they are. Being a "third culture kid" — someone raised outside her parents' country of origin — I have been able to experience various forms of celebration in my home. When my family was living in Italy over 10 years ago, for example, on the last Sunday of every November, my mom would invite many friends over to have a big meal with roasted turkey, different kinds of mashed potatoes, and a lot of pie. Initially, the guests

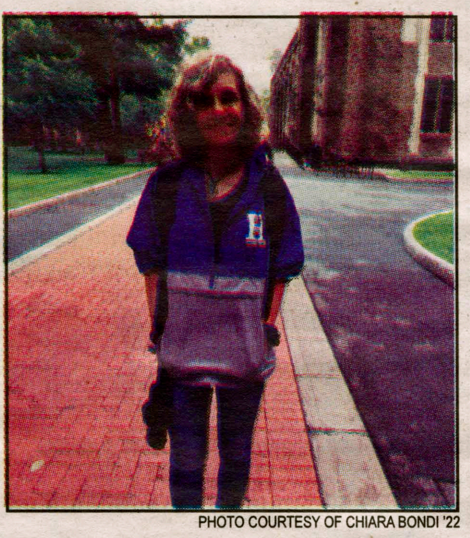


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHIARA BONDI '22

didn't realize that they were invited to celebrate Thanksgiving!

I remember always getting excited when December came — Christmas was getting close! In Madrid, where I lived for ten years, I would ask my friends what plans they had for December 25. I was shocked at first when they would say, "My family doesn't do much because we celebrate 'Los Reyes Magos.'" Instead of celebrating Christmas on December 25, many Spaniards celebrate Epiphany, a holiday that honors the wise men who were said to have visited Jesus shortly after his birth, on January 6. Although we have been living in Spain for some time now, my family has continued our Italian tradition of celebrating Christmas with the typical dishes of orecchiette pasta with homemade lamb ragú.

After Christmas, people start thinking about their New Year's Resolutions. I remember my first time celebrating New Year's in Madrid. My mom and I went grocery shopping and as we looked through the store to find what we needed, we saw an entire aisle with bags of seedless grapes for sale. Every person who went down the aisle would reach and grab at least one bag. I asked my mom if it was grape season, and she was puzzled as well. Only on New Year's Eve did we find out the significance of grapes for the Spaniards. We were at a friend's house, and she followed Spanish traditions. Just before midnight hit, everyone would get a cup with exactly 12 grapes. I was very confused at first: why was dessert twelve grapes and not cookies or cake or something else? Once everyone had a cup, she explained to us the Spanish tradition of eating one grape for every time the bell rang once the clock struck midnight. Apparently, many Spanish people do this in the hopes that it will bring them good luck in the twelve months of the new year.

Thinking back on my varied holiday memories, I laugh at how different our traditions may seem to others. This collage of traditions from different cultures shows where I've been and what I've learned. The cultural mix reflects my journey and helps me better understand who I am and where I came from: I am a girl who has lived in 3 different countries (France, Italy and Spain), with an Italian father and an American mother.

Model UN team attends BARMUN conference

by Catherine McFarland '22
Contributing Writer

The Hamilton College Model United Nations team traveled to Boston from Oct. 4-7 to participate in the prestigious Boston Area Model United Nations (BARMUN) conference, which is hosted by Boston University's team. Hamilton is nationally-ranked in the top 75 college MUN teams. Many national competitors were also in attendance, such as the University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, George Washington University, and Georgetown University.

Hamilton's team consisted of Connor Feldman '22, Lindsey Foster '20, James Goggins '20, Mukund Jayaram '22, AlMahdi Mahil '20, Sam Ntim-Addae '21, Saphire Ruiz '22, and Emnet Sisay '22. Half of the team were first-years, making this one of their first college conferences, aside from the conference some recently attended at Columbia University. "It was challenging and at a level well beyond high school MUN, but I learned a lot and met people from all over the country," said Jayaram.

The keynote speaker at this year's conference was Munira Khalif. She founded the nonprofit Lighting the Way, which seeks to provide accessible education to girls in East Africa through scholarships and funding of academic resources. She just finished serving as the 2017-2018 U.N. Youth Observer, which involved responsibilities such as speaking at the UN and travelling around the U.S. to address pressing issues concerning youth in America.

The conference included 14 committees of General Assemblies, Specialized Committees, and Crisis Committees. Hamilton participated in several of them, including 2020: The CDC on Antibiotic Resistance, the First Italo-Ethiopian War, and the Joint Crisis Committee on the Iran Hostage Crisis. Other committees included the European Regional Development Fund, 1991 Somaliland, Manuel Zelaya's Cabinet, a 2017 Uber Executive Board Meeting, and more.

Hamilton students in the CDC committee were faced with the consequences of societal overuse of antibiotics. Superbugs were projected to kill over 300 million people in the near future, with more people dying from cancer each year. The Committee had to debate the best solution to global disease control before it was too late.

Delegates in the First Italo-Ethiopian War acted as governmental figures in Ethiopia. The committee discussed the best plan of action to remove the Italians from their land and protect their kingdom.

Feldman and Jayaram worked as a team in the only Joint-Crisis Committee (JCC) offered at the conference. The JCC on the Iran Hostage Crisis was made up of two committees, one representing the United States and the other representing the Iranian students. The Iranian students had to decide how to best use their power to demand an end to American interference in Iranian affairs, while the United States had to debate how to effectively save the hostages. Feldman, who represented the United States, said about his experience: "I got to immerse myself as a different person in a different time, and see historical events through the eyes of someone making the decisions." In addition, this experience taught him valuable life skills. "Though I didn't agree with everyone's perspective, and even my own at times, I learned how to collaborate across the aisle," he said.

Feldman and Jayaram both described the conference as "very successful." The team hopes to continue this success at Yale's conference in January.

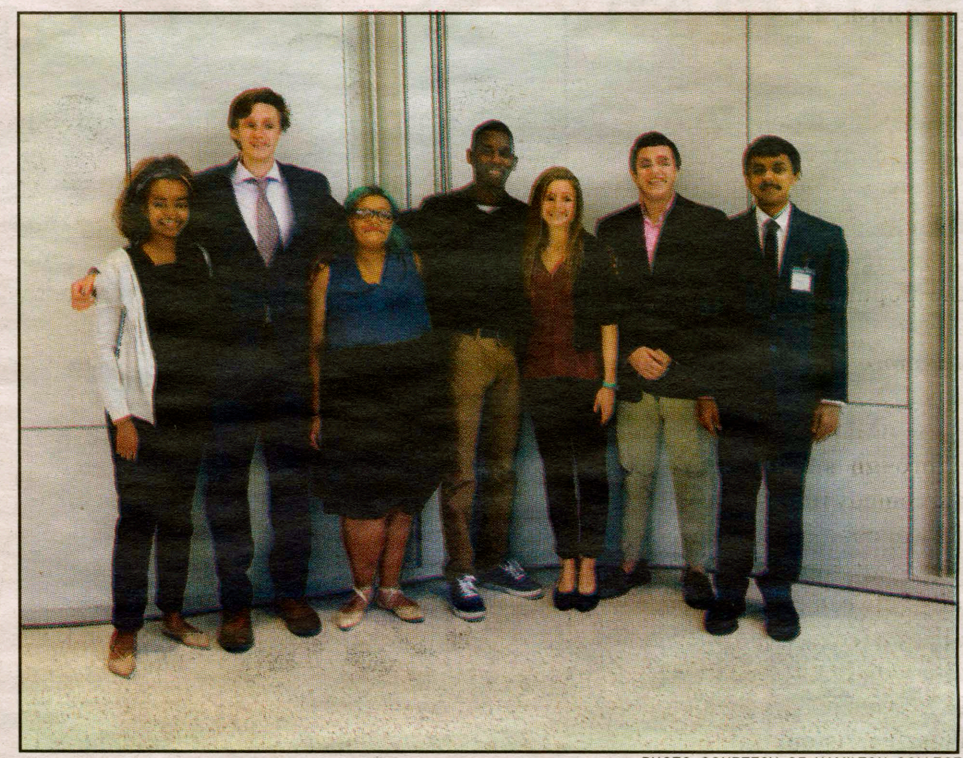


PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Members of the model UN team pose at the BARMUN conference

SEX and Campus: Destigmatizing sex work

by Lucy Munves '19
Head Production Editor

In 2014, it was revealed that a first-year student at Duke University was moonlighting as an adult film star in order to cover tuition costs. Initially, the student wrote an anonymous post for the blog xoJane explaining her choice to be an adult film star. However, she was quickly identified by a male classmate, and the campus lost its mind.

The girl received hundreds of friend requests on Facebook by students who were desperate to "have sex with a real porn star." She was harassed both in her classes and online and mercilessly criticized for her choice. Furthermore, the student no longer qualified for financial aid at Duke due to her increased income.

While this woman's story may seem unique, it actually is not. There are over 1,000,000 women in the United States who, at some point in their lives, have been a part of the sex work industry. This could be anything from being in an adult film, to exotic dancing or being an escort.

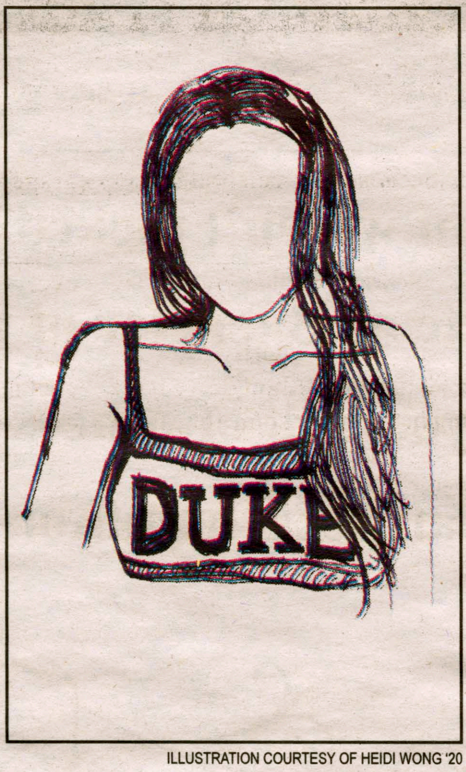


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF HEIDI WONG '20

The industry makes up a decent portion of the workforce and our economy. Unfortunately, we live in a world where this kind of work is heavily stigmatized. Those in the sex work industry are intensely criticized for their choices, and their profession is often used as a justification for abuse and assault.

Sex work can be incredibly empowering, and choosing to engage in the industry can be incredibly liberating. Many women who participate in sex work do so for supplemental income or as a temporary way to make money. Even if it is their full-time career, it can still be a lucrative and valid way to make money and support oneself.

Regardless of someone's reason for being in the sex work industry, the profession itself is still often invalidated and marked as "not real work." In fact, sex work is one of the most physically and mentally gruelling professions that exists. To deal with constant harassment (both mental and physical) is admirable and an extremely prominent aspect of such work.

The representation of female sex workers in popular media portrays them as dead-beats, drug addicts, or girls who "have just lost their way." These women are portrayed as props in films and television, sent in to break up a marriage or end a friendship. They are the categorical "damsels in distress" who are always in need of rescuing, which is usually done by a wealthy white male character.

Meanwhile, male sex workers are glorified in films like Magic Mike and are given personalities, morals and happy endings. Additionally, these men get to be proud of the work that they do, and this pride is celebrated throughout the film. Their foray into sex work is seen as intentional and temporary, and it is clear that they still have space to pursue their dreams in the future.

This view of female sex workers is extremely sexist and plays into the misogynistic narrative that is so prevalent in this country. Women are constantly criticized for their choices regarding their sex lives, while men are praised regardless of their actions.

The reality is that sex work is real work. And it is a respectable way to have ownership over your body and support yourself financially.

The rhetoric around sex work in this country needs to shift to support women who are making a living in the ways that they want to.

WHCL announces Varsity and Anemone as Fall Concert Guest Artists

by Bethany Vickery '20
A&E Editor

On Mon. Oct. 15, WHCL announced the musical guests for its Nov. 10 Fall Concert. The main act of the concert is Varsity, an indie-rock band from Chicago. Opening for Varsity is up-and-coming alternative group Anemone, who will be taking the stage at 8 PM. WHCL made the concert announcement in the form of a video posted to their Facebook page, starring members of the organization's executive board. Admission to the concert is free.

Varsity has five members: Stephanie Smith on lead vocals and synthesizer, Dylan Weschler on guitar and backup vocals, Patrick Stanton on guitar, Paul Stolz on bass guitar, and Jake Stolz on the drums. The band made their debut in 2013, releasing song their first song, "Turns Out," via the music streaming service Bandcamp. Since 2013, Varsity has released three studio albums, four singles, and one EP. Each of the band's singles contain a B-side record in addition to the single song.

In Apr. 2018, Varsity released their newest album, with Babe City Records. Longtime Varsity fan and WHCL Events Coordinator Graham Paul '20 expressed excitement about Varsity's new work, saying, "I've been listening to them since 2015, and they just released a new album, *A Parallel Person.* I think they're really coming into their own as a band."

Varsity has received positive reviews since their debut in 2015. Britt Julious of the *Chicago Tribune* gave the band a glowing review in 2015, based on Varsity's first releases. Julious described Varsity's appeal to angsty youth:

"It's not a high school band, but rather a band that understands the complexities of that time period: the angst, the frustration, the sucker punch of decisions. But the smart and relatable songwriting feels years past such a time."

Varsity's songwriting deals with themes of love, heartbreak, and loneliness. Although the band formed after the members graduated high school, their 2015 release Hairpool features the lyric, "I would never get between you and your biology or your psychology too// Ok I would it seems that I've got nothing better to do than hang around after school." Between Smith's smooth, melodic vocals and frequent guitar riffs from Stanton, Stolz, and Weschler, Varsity straddles genres. Catchy tunes and upbeat refrains balance the wistful, often bittersweet lyrics. The band's 2015 release "So Sad, So Sad" combines the lyric, "Weak just like I take my drinks// A crumb upon my plate leads to a week of crying streaks" over an upbeat guitar accompaniment. Varsity stands out for their effortless synthesis of buoyancy and melancholiness. The Chicago Redeye characterized the band's style as a fusion of bubblegum and punk music.

Opening for Varsity is Anemone, a Montreal-based quintet. The group consists of lead vocalist and keyboard player Chloé Soldevila, Miles Dupire-Gagnon on the drums, Gabriel Lambert on the guitar, Zachary Irving on the bass, and Samuel Gemme on the guitar. Anemone combines dream pop, Krautrock, and dance music influences in their unique style.

Paull was instrumental in organizing the concert. He first saw Anemone over the summer when they opened at a Men I Trust concert. He "like [s] their energy – they're fun, vibrant people, moving and grooving about the stage. They're on the up and up." Anemone released their first album, *Baby Only You and I*, earlier this year. The band produces songs both in French and English; *Baby Only You and I* includes titles *Bout de Toi* and *Laying in the Sun.* Their music can be found on Spotify, Soundcloud, Apple Music, and Bandcamp.

The concert will take place in the Annex, and doors will open at 7:30 PM on Nov. 10. Admission is free.

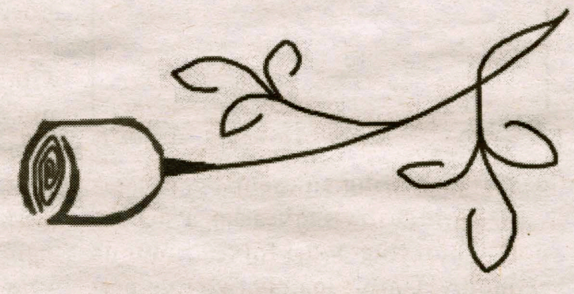
PHOTO COURTESY OF NATALIE SOLER VIA RARECANDY.ORG

Members of Anemone include Chloé Soldevila, Miles Dupire-Gagnon, Gabriel Lambert, Zachary Irving, and Samuel Gemme

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEVENDAYSVT.COM

Varsity achieves their unique style using synthesizers and bass guitar, as well as drums and guitar

Jealous you weren't picked to be the Bachelorette or Bachelor of the week? Nominate yourself or others by emailing featspec@hamilton.edu



Reinventing the horror movie: *Hereditary* (2018)

by Katherine Kim '22
A&E Contributor

[Warning: this article contains spoilers for *Hereditary*].

As Halloween approaches, those eager for a scare will inevitably scour the internet for potential horror movies to watch. People tend to watch past horror flicks more frequently than those presently playing in theaters, which is a sad but unsurprising tradition. Though scaring audiences might sound easy, every audience member perceives potential scares differently, so directors must use many cinematic techniques to ensure that their audiences feel fear when watching their movies. Most directors are tentative to branch out from what has scared viewers in past, which results in movies loaded with horror cliches. However, Ari Aster's *Hereditary* (2018) breathes fresh air into the genre by delivering a terrifying narrative that undoubtedly secures its spot on horror movie watch lists everywhere.

Hereditary delves into the life of miniaturist artist Annie Graham. The movie focuses on the events that happen to her family after her mother passes away. Though director Ari Aster does include supernatural elements in the film, it stays far away from stereotypical house haunting narratives in both directorial style and material.

In the very first shot of *Hereditary*, audiences see a treehouse through a room window. Besides the groaning strings in the score, nothing in this scene blatantly acts as something to frighten the audience. The sun shines brightly on the neatly constructed treehouse, and the camera slowly pans around the room as if it were the room's unbothered occupant. Despite all these cues that indicate normalcy, Aster expertly creates a frightening atmosphere for viewers by using a minimalistic style.

Instead of overloading the audience's senses, Aster employs only the score to instill a sense of disquiet in his audience. The strings are unpredictable. Audiences expect something to happen when the sound of the strings grows to a startling volume, but nothing jumps into the frame or disturbs the camera's slow pan across the room. It is a scene that scares the audience effectively and helps distinguish the film from other horror movies. It does not utilize any of the cliches audiences have come to know such as jumpscares, quick cuts, and spooky settings.

Other than its deviation from most horror cliches, *Hereditary* scares viewers because it packs loads of heavy thematic material that should hit home for many. Most of the horror in this film comes from each member of Annie's family as they fail to communicate with each other. This triggers grief, PTSD, and emotional breakdowns for everyone in the house. Thus, instead of constructing a melodramatic horror story, Aster uses the family narrative to his advantage. Audiences grow frightened when watching *Hereditary* because everyone, at some point, can identify some part of their own family in what is happening on screen. As the film progresses, viewers begin to fear that a lack of communication might lead them down the same path of agony that Annie's family experiences. It all seems plausible to the audience because these events have a much greater chance of happening to the average person than the appearance of a serial killer terrorizing the neighborhood.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAD CENTRAL

Milly Shapiro, widely known as Broadway's *Matilda,* plays Annie Graham's daughter Charlie in *Hereditary*

In another twist, the main characters of *Hereditary* behave like honorable protagonists suffering from corrupt influences. Previous horror movies tend to indicate an inherent evil lurking within main characters, like in Rob Reiner's *Misery* (1980) or Roman Polanski's *Rosemary's Baby* (1968). However, Annie and her family do not exhibit wicked intentions, and only begin to show terrifying behavior when their boundaries of trust and connection dissolve as a result of their grieving. The most memorable example of this behavior occurs in the middle of the movie, when a fed-up Annie, played by Toni Collette, screams at her son Peter for not telling her about a crucial event immediately. Annie delivers her speech in such a degrading and vicious way that no one could doubt it is emotional abuse. Consequently, Aster emphasizes the importance of empathy and healthy communication by showing how the perfect family unit turns horribly distorted without those aspects.

With effective scare tactics and alarmingly realistic situations, *Hereditary* has chilled audiences everywhere and has cemented itself as a staple of the horror movie genre. Horror junkies now have this option for the perfect film to watch on Halloween night. But, viewers beware: *Hereditary* is a highly-disturbing narrative that may alarm the faint of heart.

Literature and Creative Writing departments bring poet Afaa Weaver to the Hill

by Emma Mae Regan '22
A&E Contributor

On Thursday, Oct. 18, poet Afaa Weaver will read from his work in the Beinecke Events Barn at 8:00 PM. After the reading, there will be a reception and book sale. The event is presented by Hamilton College's Literature and Creative Writing departments, and is sponsored by the Forman Memorial Fund and the Days-Massolo Center.

Afaa Michael Weaver is an American poet, editor, and journalist. He was born as Michael S. Weaver in Baltimore, Maryland during 1951. When Weaver was 16, he graduated high school as a National Merit Finalist.

He continued his education for two years at the University of Maryland College Park. Between his undergraduate and graduate studies, Weaver worked alongside his father and uncles at a factory for fifteen years. However, he spent a significant amount of time outside of the factory pursuing endeavors to write and publish more of his work. Weaver founded 7th Son Press and the literary journal *Blind Alleys*. He wrote short stories, poetry, freelance articles, and submitted book reviews first to Andrei Codrescu's literary journal *Exquisite Corpse* and then for *The Baltimore Sun*. Andrei Codrescu is a Romanian-American writer and National Public radio commentator who serves as an editor for *Exquisite Corpse*.

Weaver's first poetry book named *Water Song* was published in the literary journal *Callaloo* in 1985. The National Endowment for the Arts granted him a fellowship six months later. Weaver then departed the factory to pursue a Masters of Arts in theater and playwriting from Brown University and a Bachelor of Arts in literature from Excelsior College. At Brown, Weaver was on a full university fellowship and attended Brown's graduate writing program.

Weaver started his teaching career at Essex College in 1987. Since then, he has taught at other American undergraduate and graduate schools including Seton Hall Law School, City University of New York, New York University, Rutgers University, and Simmons College. Internationally, Weaver taught at Taipei National University of the Arts and the National Taiwan University under an appointment in 2001 from the Fulbright Association to teach in Taiwan.

Today, Weaver resides in West Cornwall, Connecticut, and serves as a faculty member for the Drew Masters of Fine Arts program for Poetry and Poetry in Translation.

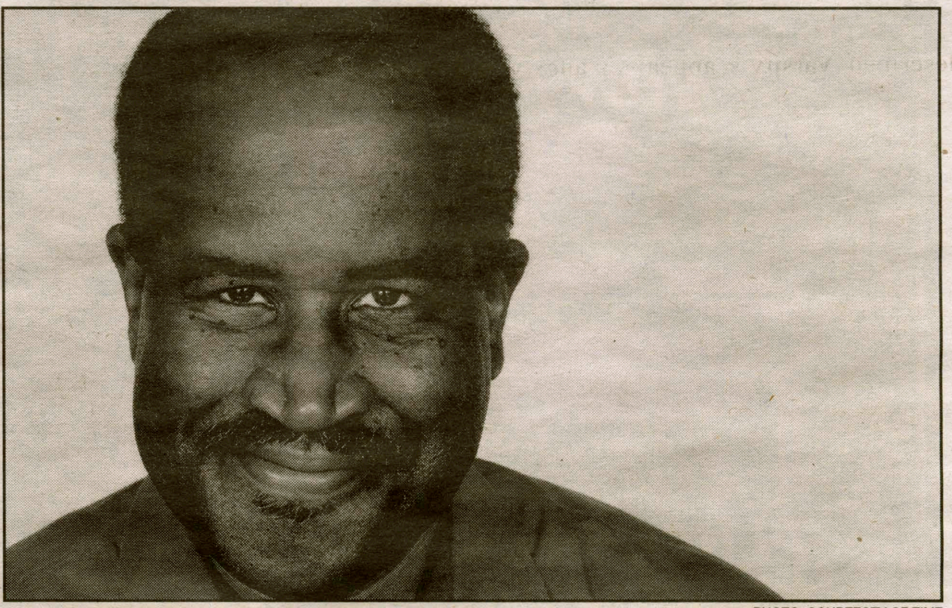


PHOTO COURTESY OF TIME

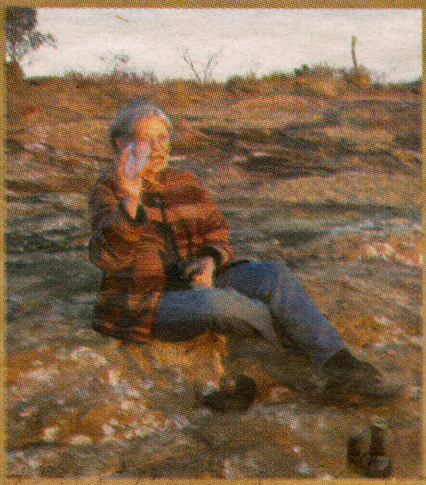
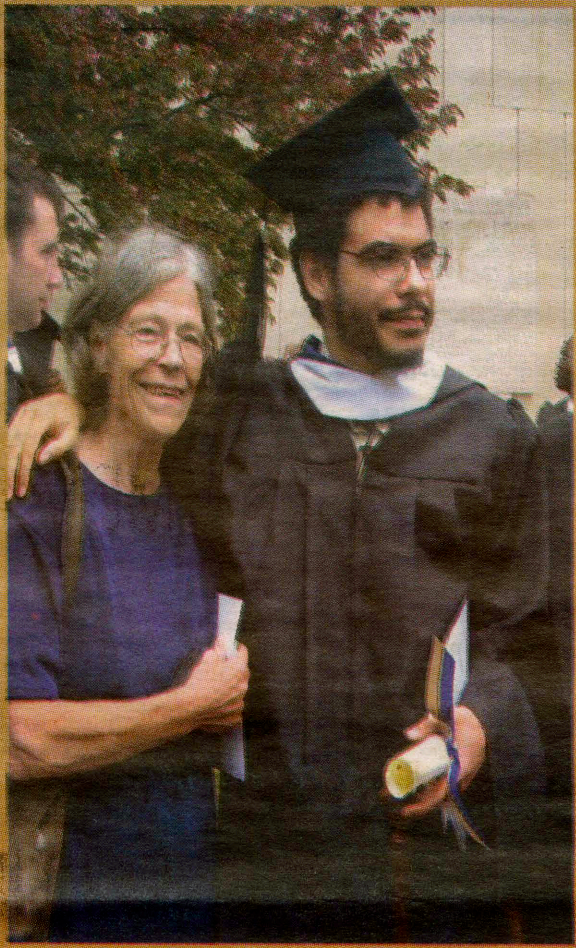
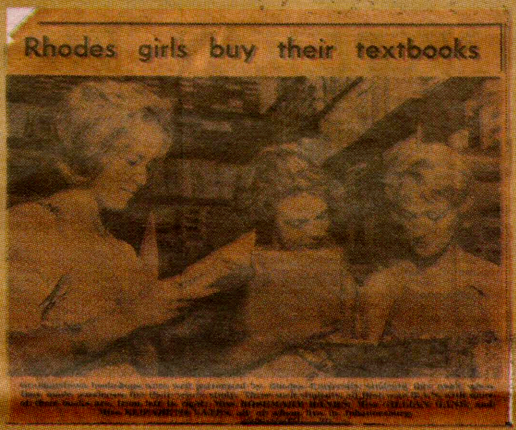
Poet Afaa Weaver will speak at Hamilton on Oct. 18

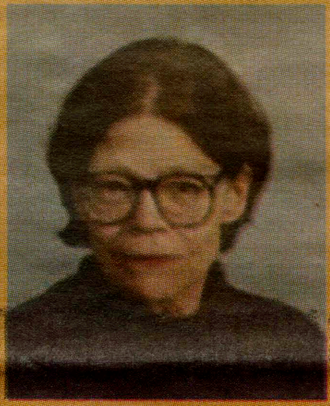
Weaver found inspiration for his early poetry in Lucille Clifton's poetry and the Black Arts Movement. Clifton was a poet, writer, and educator from Buffalo, NY and a two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for poetry. The Black Arts Movement grew out of the Black Power movement of the 1960s and early 1970s.

Weaver's work analyzes how the relationship between physicality and spirit shapes a person's identity. His writing examines Weaver's experience in Baltimore, focusing on how his relationships with his family and his city affected Weaver's development. He also incorporates lessons from his Chinese language and culture studies and work with Chinese poets into his writing. Weaver intends for readers to absorb his poetry through spoken word, with the writer delivering his poems in a compassionate and detailed manner. This vocal and personal delivery makes Weaver's poetry a unique experience.

An Academic Journey from Johannesburg South Africa to Clinton, NY

A memorial for Gillian Gane, Professor of English
hosted by her son, Robin Gane-McCalla '07



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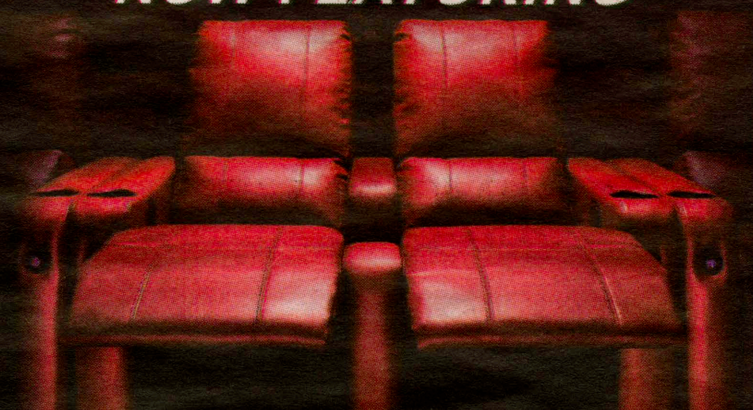

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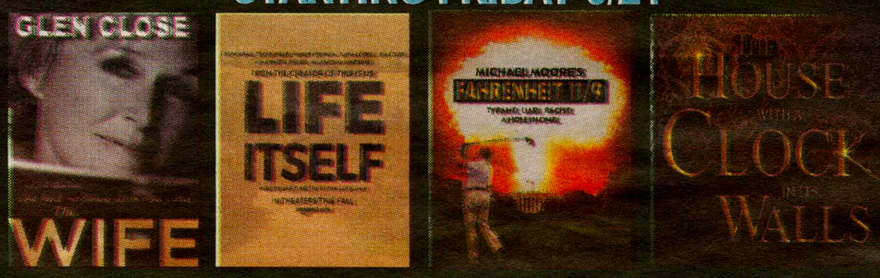

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Movie-watching at the Oneida Movieplex has just been taken to a whole new level of comfort and relaxation. The Oneida Movieplex is thrilled to announce the installation of luxury plush, fully reclining chairs that provide audiences with a first-class movie watching experience. Moviegoers can lean back and relax as they enjoy a premium recliner that features a powered push button recline mechanism and superior leg room for extra comfort. All nine auditoriums in the complex now boast reclining chairs.

In addition to the plush recliners, the Oneida Movieplex is also offering $5 movie tickets for all showtimes before noon, $5 tickets all day Tuesday and $1 small popcorn with each admission on Wednesdays. Kick back in the new recliners and take advantage of the ultimate movie viewing experience and wide selection of films that the Oneida Movieplex offers. Upcoming movies include Fahrenheit 11/9, The Wife, The House With a Clock in Its Walls, Life Itself, Night School, Small Foot, A Star is Born, Venom, Goosebumps, Halloween, The Nutcracker and the Four Realms, Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald, Ralph Breaks the Internet, Mary Poppins Returns and Aquaman.

With all the fabulous movies being released we hope that everyone will come out and experience the thrills and escapism that only movies can offer.

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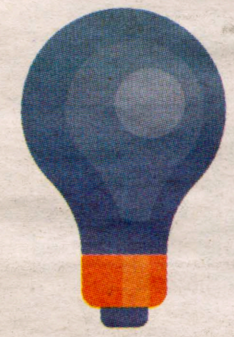

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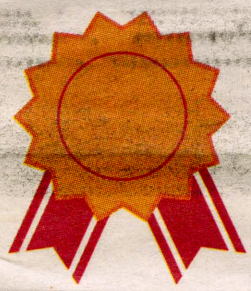

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NBA season preview: drama abounds in star-studded Western Conference

from NBA, page 16

in a crowded West.

Over in Philly, fans are predicting this young core will cement themselves as a powerhouse in a LeBron-less East, but it is more likely this team is a hair behind Boston and the Toronto Raptors in the East's hierarchy. Markelle Fultz is attempting jumpers and threes with confidence and could be the key to this team taking the next step towards a Finals berth as he provides the ball-handling skills and pick-and-roll playmaking ability it takes to run high scoring offense in this league. The absence of some the shooting specialist from last year's squad — Marco Belinelli in particular — may hurt this team ever so slightly over the course of the regular season, but health more than anything will define Philly's regular season win total. If star Joel Embiid is healthy for more than 65 games this year, Philly will comfortably snag the East's three seed and be a serious challenger for spots one and two.

The Boston Celtics and Golden State Warriors project as the one seeds of their respective conferences, and for good reason. Both teams have a plethora of All Stars and are helmed by two of basketball's more innovative and charismatic coaches. If you want to know why Golden State will command no more than a sentence or two in this preview, consider that last year's title team added an All-Star center to their starting five, which now consists of five All Stars, all in their prime, who can spread the floor and play above elite defense. Golden State is boringly amazing. They have nothing to prove and are frankly uninteresting until the Western Conference Finals, or Finals.

Boston, on the other hand, may have the league's best lineup for matching up with Golden State's nuclear arsenal. Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown, Gordon Hayward, and Al Horford are all stingy defenders who can create offense for themselves at the other end, and Kyrie Irving is an offensive magician capable of breaking down even a locked-in Warrior's defense, and last year he showed flashes of improved defensive engagement across the regular season. Irving always seems to match up to the task of guarding Curry every time the two square off against one another, so Boston matches up well with Golden State at all five positions. Even with injuries to their stars, coach Brad Stevens has proven he is capable of leading this team on a deep playoff run. With LeBron in a different conference for at least three more years, this Celtics team should be the class of the east for the foreseeable future.

Golden State and Boston's biggest challengers for conference supremacy appear to be the Houston Rockets and Toronto Raptors, respectively. Houston quietly became worse this offseason, opting to let Trevor Ariza leave in free agency and replacing him with Carmelo Anthony. Anthony can hit threes but not defend; Ariza can do both. To be fair, Houston's historically awful stretch of three point shooting in game seven of last year's Western Conference Finals is why the team missed the Finals, not defense,

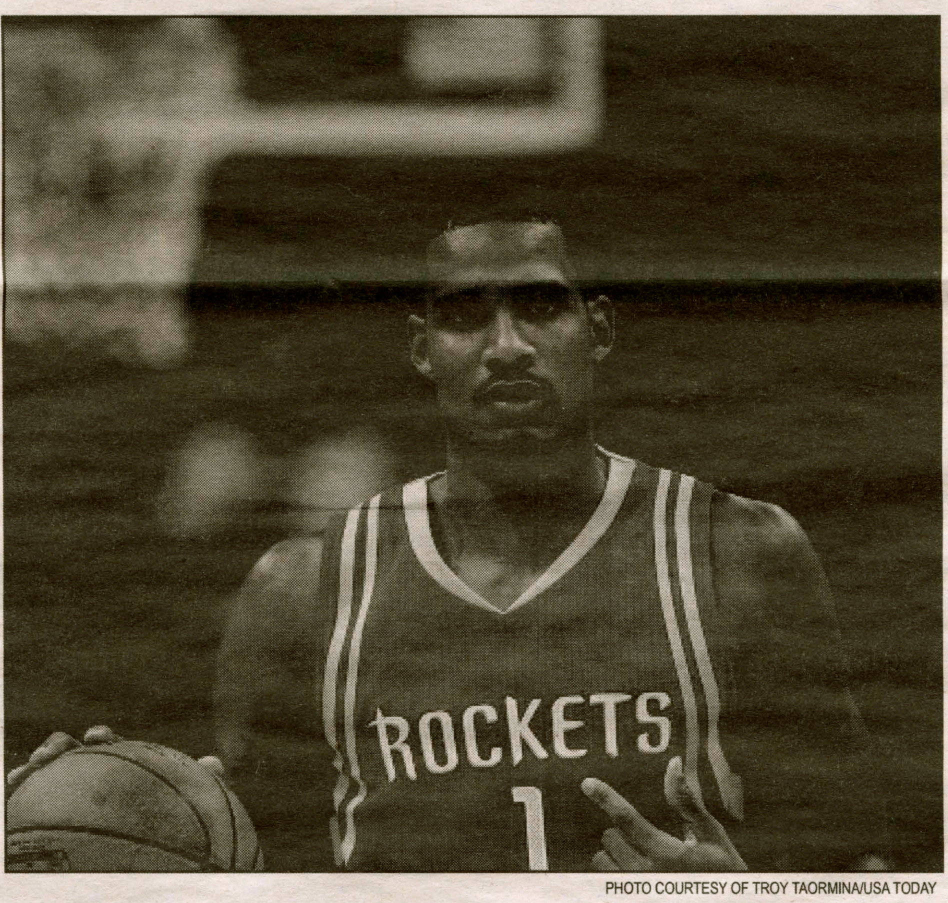

PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY TAORMINA/USA TODAY

The Houston Rockets let shooting guard Trevor Ariza go in free agency and should struggle on the defensive end without him

but their improved play on the defensive side of the ball is the reason they captured the one seed in the west. Without sustained regular season defense, this Rockets team will be hard pressed to overcome the talent deficit they face in comparison to Golden State, but should fall no lower than the West's two seed.

In Toronto, self labeled "fun guy" Kawhi Leonard will look to return to his 2016-17 form which established him as a top-three player in the league. If Leonard can return to his efficient offensive production and elite smothering defense, he alone can single-handedly take over games and throw anyone — including LeBron or Kevin Durant — out of rhythm. That could be enough for Kyle Lowry and Toronto's depth to win a game on any given night. Most likely, there will be a learning curve for Leonard in Toronto, and Boston's chemistry and democratic offense will keep them ahead of the organization in the North. Though Leonard is reportedly open to remaining in Toronto, anything short of a Finals berth will be disappointing and likely not enough to convince Leonard to stay in Toronto in favor of Los Angeles.

The other two most interesting teams in the East are the Milwaukee Bucks and Indiana Pacers. Both organizations took superior teams to seven games in the first round of the playoffs last season and are anchored by young stars hungry to further cement themselves at the top of the league. Giannis Antetokounmpo is a bonafide star and serious MVP contender despite not possessing a reliable outside shot, a second fiddle, or bench support in Milwaukee. Indiana is not as top heavy. While Victor Oladipo is not quite as transcendent as Antetokounmpo, his surrounding cast is deeper and more talented than Antetokounmpo's counterparts in Milwaukee. These teams are most likely to find themselves in the four and five seeds come playoff time, and they could combine for the most entertaining first round matchup across the board.

As for East seeds six through seven, the Detroit Pistons, Washington Wizards, Miami Heat, Charlotte Hornets, and Cleveland Cavaliers project to battle it out for one of those spots. Miami, should they acquire Jimmy Butler from the Minnesota Timberwolves, almost certainly will grab one of those spots, maybe even spots four or five. The rest of the teams, most experts feel, are tossups and at the mercy of their best players and health. Most notably, should the Cavaliers sneak into the playoffs following the loss of LeBron James, it would be a small source of pride for the franchises as they plummeted into the lottery the two previous times that James took his talents to warmer climates

The Western Conference beyond Golden State, Houston, and OKC is jam-packed with talent and playoff potential. The Utah Jazz, Denver Nuggets, Los Angeles Lakers, New Orleans Pelicans, Portland Trails Blazers, and San Antonio Spurs all have legitimate claims at one of the final five playoff spots. The more things that changed in the West this offseason, the more things stayed the same in Utah. The Jazz opted not to test free agency interest from stars and instead focused on building around Donovan Mitchell, Rudy Gobert, and Ricky Rubio. Teams will see Mitchell coming this season, but he showed he is capable of being heavily schemed against in the playoffs, and Derrick Favors, Gobert, and Rubio will keep the offense and defense for the Jazz humming along.

In New Orleans, Julius Randle is a fiery and productive replacement for Demarcus Cousins, and barring an injury to Anthony Davis, this team could make some noise as Davis seems motivated to prove himself as a top three player in the league — Google his quotes about where he views himself in relation to LeBron and KD for proof. The Spurs may be in danger of missing the playoffs for the first time since 1997 as injuries to their back court during preseason deplete the amount of reliable guard play on this team. Expect Gregg Popovich to work his magic and keep this team in the playoff hunt, but don't be surprised if the Spurs are not in the playoff picture for the first time since 1997 come May 2019.

And finally, for the most interesting, entertaining, confounding, and mysterious team to open the 2018-19 NBA season: the Los Angeles Lakers. Signing LeBron this past summer was exciting but not necessarily surprising as there was a well-documented trial of crumbs connecting the Lakers and the world's best player for at least the last year. The true surprise of the Lakers offseason was all the moves they made after signing The King. Lance Stephenson, Rajon Rondo, JaVale McGee, and Michael Beasley all signed one-year deals in Los Angeles after LeBron and those mentioned will be leaders and serious contributors for this team. After watching some of the Lakers' preseason games, it is clear this team has a high ceiling. Virtually any team with LeBron is guaranteed a playoff spot, even in a loaded West. The combination of veteran leadership and playmaking paired with young talent — perhaps budding stardom — will be enough to keep this team in the playoff picture and possibly make them a tough matchup for any opponent.

In the best case scenario for the Lakers, Brandon Ingram blossoms into a viable second star; his gradual growth in the league to this point suggest that over the course of this season this is more likely than not. Also in this scenario, Josh Hart proves to be the three-and-D player that fits so nicely with LeBron, the veteran's general playmaking abilities compensates for their lack of shooting, and this team makes a deep playoff run that is enough to woo a second superstar to fill one of the organization's two max contract slots next offseason. If the experiment fails and the Lakers' youngsters do not develop quickly enough or the shooting difficulties are too much for pace of play to overcome, expect one youngster, likely Lonzo Ball, to be on the trading block at the deadline. Even if it seems more than likely LeBron's streak of eight straight finals will come to an end this season, there is no way that LeBron does not make the playoffs. If most goes right for the Lakers, and early preseason returns and media buzz suggests it will, and LeBron puts up another gaudy season to guide them to the Western Conference's four or five seed, the Lakers may have a Warrior-free path to the Western Conference Final and historical precedent (Russell Westbrook's 2016 MVP season) suggests The King could be due for a fifth MVP award.

No matter what happens this regular season, the NBA is inching closer to a state of parity that many fans have been longing for ever since Durant joined Golden State in the summer of 2016. While Golden State remains the team to beat in the Western Conference (and the league), the East is wide open for the first time in eight years, and by extension, for the first time in four years, fans will be treated to a new NBA Finals matchup.

Field hockey ranked #13 in nation, continues NESCAC domination

by Kelcie Zarle '22
Contributing Writer

After losing to Trinity in last year's NESCAC tournament quarterfinals, which marked the end of their successful 9–6 regular season, the Hamilton field hockey team returned to the field this fall more determined than ever to make the 2018 campaign a memorable one. With 13 games under the team's belt so far this year, the team has already surpassed last season's win total with two games remaining on the regular season schedule. They currently find themselves ranked #13 nationally, according to the latest Division III National Field Hockey Coaches' Association (NFHCA) poll. With a 10–3 record overall (6–3 in NESCAC), the Continentals sit just below #1 Middlebury and #3 Tufts in the win column within their conference.

The Continentals wasted no time this year, starting the season with a show of strength. They won their first four games over Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (6-0), Bates College (3-2), Skidmore College (4-1), and Trinity College (3-2), more than making up for last year's playoff loss. Coach Mariano and her talented roster of returning players have been able to successfully transfer some of the momentum and confidence from last year's season to this year's team. Though they have lost games to the nation's top-ranked Division III field hockey program (Middlebury College), #3 Tufts University, and #9 Bowdoin College, the rest of the schedule has been dotted with nothing but wins.

Before much of the student body left Clinton for Fall Break, the field hockey team competed in two exciting NESCAC games against #18 Amherst and #16 Williams. On Saturday, Oct. 6, the team faced the host Mammoths of Amherst College where they earned a 4-3 victory in overtime. In the nail-biting, back-and-forth match between the two opponents, goals scored by Sarah Stinebaugh '19, Michaela Giuttari '20 and Mary Kate Sisk '21 were all matched by Amherst players before the final horn in regulation sounded. They entered the first period of sudden-victory overtime tied 3-3. Giuttari's spirited performance gave Hamilton the edge as she scored her second goal of the game, this one with just under two minutes remaining. Julia Booth '19 also played a big part in the win as the goaltender expertly protected the net throughout the game, resulting in a season-high 15 saves.

The following Tuesday, Oct. 9, the Continentals matched up against Williams on the familiar turf of Hamilton's Goodfriend Field. In double overtime, the team ended the staredown with a 3-2 win over the Ephs. Though Williams scored the first goal in regulation, Stinebaugh quickly answered to tie the score at 1-1 going into halftime. Sarah Pierpoint '21 gave the Continentals a 2-1 lead with her goal in the second half, but the Ephs answered with another goal towards the end of regulation time. The seesaw match entered overtime at 2-2, and that is exactly where the score stood following the first extra period. In the second overtime, one of the Continentals' defenders, Sarah Kane '19, took control as she carried a loose ball the length of the field. She managed to get a shot off, but the ball bounced off of an Ephs defender. Luckily, Giuttari was there to clean it up and score the game-winner for the Continentals.

During Fall Break, the team celebrated Senior Day with another home game on Saturday, Oct. 13. Despite the excitement of the day, the Continentals were unable to translate their momentum from their previous games, losing 3-2 to the #9 Bowdoin College Polar Bears. Falling just one goal short despite goals by Tatiana Bradley '19 and Giuttari, the Continentals were not able to match Bowdoin's 3-goal output. Though it was not the outcome they had hoped for in their last home game of the 2018 regular season, the field hockey team has two more chances on away turf to lock in another couple of wins. On Saturday, Oct. 20, the team plays at Colby College and on Wednesday, Oct. 24 they play Rochester College in their regular season finale. Tournament games will be posted later on when standings are available following the end of the regular season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE
Michaela Giuttari '20 is second in the NESCAC in points and goals

What you missed this week in athletics

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON ATHLETICS

Golf coach Lauren Cupp '07 held her title of first place female golfer at the U.S. Speedgolf Open on Saturday, Oct. 13. On Monday, Oct. 15, she improved on her 2017 3rd place finish to achieve first place in the women's World Championships. On Tuesday, Oct. 16 she represented Team USA in the World Cup and finished in third place.

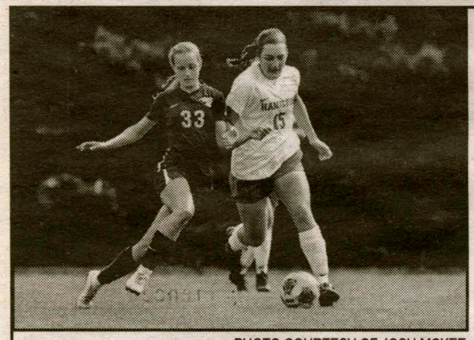
PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Women's soccer (7-3-3), in 5th place in the NESCAC, blanked Morrisville State College 6-0 in an offensive explosion on Tuesday, Oct. 14. This was their fourth shutout in a row. The top 8 teams in the NESCAC proceed to the playoffs, and Hamilton plays away at Colby College (4-6-1) this weekend.

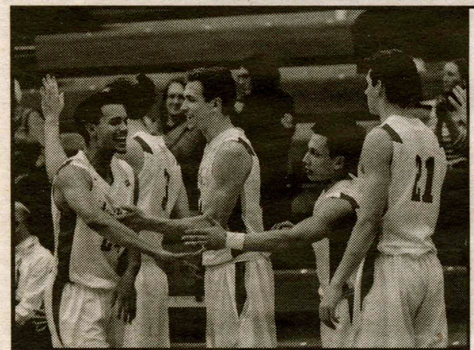
PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Men's basketball was ranked #9 nationally by D3hoops.com preseason poll. The team, whose coach Adam Stockwell was the 2018 NESCAC Coach of the Year, went 24-5 last year and were tied for first place in the conference. They won two games after receiving an at-large bid to the NCAA Division III tournament.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE
Quarterback Kenny Gray '20 was selected as the NESCAC Football Offensive Player of the Week for the week of Monday, Oct. 14

The Continentals (2-3) beat the Bowdoin Polar Bears (0-5) on Saturday, Oct. 13 in a runaway victory of 62-27. The game marks the first time that the football team has scored over 60 points since 1968, which was a 64-7 victory against Wesleyan University. The two teams were tied in the first quarter until the Continentals broke away in the second quarter, scoring 24 points in 15 minutes. Most notably, Will Budington '21 caught three of the four touchdown passes, and quarterback Kenny Gray '20 was selected as the NESCAC Offensive Player of the Week.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
October 18, 2018

NBA season preview: Golden State Warriors chase the three-peat

by Jake Bolster '19
Staff Writer

This Tuesday marked the start of what is sure to be another drama-filled, high-quality roller coaster of an NBA season. Unlike last year, this upcoming season is not preceded by a holistic landscape-altering offseason. Though not as many stars switched teams between July 1 and Oct. 16th this year as they did last year, the caliber of the players who switched teams in 2018 is nonetheless high enough to send shockwaves around the league. Among the faces in new places are LeBron James, who took his talents to the Los Angeles Lakers; Kawhi Leonard, who forced a trade from the San Antonio Spurs to the Toronto Raptors in exchange for DeMar DeRozan; Carmelo Anthony, who relocated to Houston from Oklahoma City; and Demarcus Cousins, who shocked the whole league (and those who still believe in competitive spirit) by signing with the Golden State Warriors.

Additionally, during this offseason, there was no new jersey sponsor, though Nike made some fun upgrades to teams' retro and city edition jerseys. While the All-Star game did not receive a dramatic overhaul, the league made a few commons sense rule tweaks for regular season to the clear path foul and changed the shot clock reset after an offensive rebound to fourteen seconds instead of twenty four — presumably speeding up the game in the process.

These free agency signings and trades, continued uniform creativity, and minor rule tweaks shore up what is arguably the most entertaining and culturally relevant major sports league in the United States. As a result, the upcoming NBA regular season and playoffs promise be as exciting as ever, with (some) mystery and intrigue surrounding this years finals matchup. This season's slate of games began on Tuesday, when the Philadelphia 76ers visited the Boston Celtics and the Golden State Warriors hosted the Oklahoma City Thunder (OKC). The Celtics and Warriors claimed victory in their respective season openers. Still, all four teams are potential top-three seeds in their conference and boast star caliber rosters befitting an opening night showdown.

OKC's offseason hinged on keeping Paul George in tow, and much to everyone's surprise, the team did so seemingly easily. The core of Russell Westbrook, Paul George, and Steven Adams all have a year of chemistry under their belt and will be closer to contenders than pretenders in a loaded West. This team will struggle with finding reliable shooters from deep — outside of Paul George — especially on their bench, and their rotation will suffer while they await Andre Roberson's return from a knee injury. Nonetheless, rookie Hamidou Diallo looked promising in the preseason and OKC's trio of stars plus reliable coach Billy Donovan should be enough for a playoff berth around the three or four seed

PHOTO COURTESY OF ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Lance Stephenson (left) defends Klay Thompson (right) during a preseason game between the Lakers and Warriors in Las Vegas on Oct. 10

see NBA, page 14

Men's and women's rowing teams bring home medals from Rochester

by Ben Westcott '20
Contributing Writer

The Continental rowing teams brought some hardware back from their trip to Rochester on Oct. 6. Competing in the Head of the Genesee Regatta, the men's first varsity 8 won the bronze medal, while the women's first varsity 8 was able to capture gold.

The men's varsity 8 placed third out of eight boats, finishing the 5.2 kilometer course with a time of 14:47.09. That time put the men just 11 seconds shy of Ithaca College's gold-medal winning effort. The men also took bronze in the second varsity 8 race, finishing third in a five boat field with a time of 15:36.85. This time it was RIT that captured the gold with a time 26 seconds faster than the Hamilton crew.

Trent Pfeiffer '19, a member of the men's varsity 8 boat, had a few takeaways from his team's experience at the Head of the Genesee. "I think the varsity 8 learned that in order to win, we have to continue putting in more work on the ergs [ergometer machines] in addition to working on technique on the water," he said. "Recently, we have been focusing on having fast, clean catches and a strong gather at the release. We will also be working on maintaining a high stroke rate for the duration of the entire head race."

The women's team continued to impress at the Head of the Genesee in their first return to competition after sweeping Colgate at the Bridge to Bridge Regatta in September. The Continentals' varsity 8 finished first out of nine boats, besting runner up RIT by 18 seconds. The Tigers from the Rochester Institute of Technology managed to reverse that result in the second varsity 8 race, finishing 18 seconds ahead of the Lady Continental's time of 16:58.09.

Elizabeth Foot '20, a member of the women's varsity 8 boat, attributes the team's fall success to work put in during the offseason.

"We graduated five seniors last year so we were kind of unsure about where we stood entering this fall," Foot said. "But everyone put in the work over the summer and came into the season ready to work hard so we've been able to put together a good boat."

Danielle Schuman '19 talked about continuing to build momentum for the spring season. "Over winter training the goal is to build speed and strength. I'm excited to see the girls push themselves to new levels so that we can hit the ground running for the spring season," Schuman said. "During the spring, our championship season, we hope to come off strong against our big rivals such as Ithaca and RIT. Our ultimate goal is for both the varsity 8's to have strong seasons so that we can earn a bid to the NCAA championship."

In addition to varsity competition, both the men and women sent novice boats to compete at the Head of the Genesee. On the men's side, a novice boat competing in the collegiate 4+ category placed 12 out of 16 finishers with a time of 18:35.31. On the women's side, Hamilton finished fifth of 13 boats in the novice 8 race with a time of 19:06.89.

Hamilton will return to the water on Saturday, Oct. 20 and Sunday, Oct. 21 at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, MA. The men's and women's teams will then finish the fall season at the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta in Philadelphia, PA on Saturday, Oct. 27 and Sunday, Oct. 28.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON ATHLETICS (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

The women's varsity 8 won the gold medal at the Head of the Genesee Regatta

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON ATHLETICS (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

The men's varsity 8 won the bronze medal at the Head of the Genesee Regatta